

LGGMC Field Trip to the Florissant Quarry

By Steven Wade Veatch

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club's **field trip** to the Florissant commercial fossil quarry on **May 12, 2007** was a great success. The quarry is next to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and is open during the summer for fossil collecting for a fee. The quarry has been owned and operated by the Clare family for many years.

The field trip participants found a variety of plant and insect fossils from the Florissant Formation, a late Eocene lake shale. To expose the fossils, the shale is split with a razor blade. Splitting the shale is just like working with a deck of playing cards— whatever is exposed along the split is based on the luck of the draw.





